

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for enabling E-commerce transactions  
2 between a vendor and a consumer, the method  
3 comprising the steps of:
  - 4 providing a secured network that stores  
5 consumer data and approved vendor  
6 information;  
7 receiving transaction information at the  
8 secured network;  
9 processing the transaction information to  
10 determine whether the transaction  
11 information conforms with the stored  
12 consumer data and approved vendor  
13 information; and  
14 delivering the stored consumer data to the  
15 vendor if the transaction information  
16 is determined to conform with the  
17 stored consumer data and approved  
18 vendor information.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2 providing a secured network further comprises:  
3 providing a virtual private network (VPN)  
4 that enables secured communication of  
5 the transaction information.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2 processing the transaction information to  
3 determine whether the transaction information  
4 conforms with the stored consumer data and  
5 approved vendor information further comprises:  
6 determining whether the transaction  
7 information contains a consumer  
8 identification indicator; and  
9 determining whether the transaction  
10 information contains a vendor  
11 identification indicator.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
2 determining whether the consumer  
3 identification indicator conforms with  
4 the stored consumer data; and

5           determining       whether       the       vendor  
6           identification indicator conforms with  
7           the       stored       approved       vendor  
8           information.

1   5.   An       apparatus       for       enabling       E-commerce  
2       transactions between a vendor and a consumer,  
3       the apparatus comprising:  
4           a secured network that stores consumer data  
5           and approved vendor information;  
6           a   transaction   receiver   that   receives  
7           transaction information at the secured  
8           network;  
9           a processor that processes the transaction  
10          information to determine whether the  
11          transaction information conforms with  
12          the stored consumer data and approved  
13          vendor information; and  
14          a delivery module that delivers the stored  
15          consumer data to the vendor if the  
16          transaction information is determined  
17          to conform with the stored consumer  
18          data and approved vendor information.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the secured  
2 network further comprises:

3 a virtual private network (VPN) that  
4 enables secured communication of the  
5 transaction information.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the processor  
2 further comprises:

3 a consumer identification module that  
4 determines whether the transaction  
5 information contains a consumer  
6 identification indicator; and

7 a vendor identification module that  
8 determines whether the transaction  
9 information contains a vendor  
10 identification indicator.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the consumer  
2 identification module further comprises

3 a first conformity module that determines  
4 whether the consumer identification

5 indicator conforms with the stored  
6 consumer data; and  
7 wherein the vendor identification module  
8 further comprises  
9 a second conformity module that determines  
10 whether the vendor identification  
11 indicator conforms with the stored  
12 approved vendor information.